Peer Popularity

not socially accepted

likeability T A R G E T less popular

not fitting in

cliques
The Mature Student

I am the mature student
In your nursing program

I am smart
An honor student in fact
I have life experience
I want to learn

I am older than you
I am the oldest student in the class
I want to join

I am mature
I am keen
I listen

I am alone
Without peers
Not chosen
I am lonely

It’s ok
You
Are
Young
Clicking of keyboards

the click of the keys
  on the lap tops
    distracts
    disrupts
    click
    click
    move
  move up
  to the front of the class
    fiddling
    shuffling
    talking
    texting
    talking
    texting
    surfing the internet
      click
      click
      click
      don’t sit
  in the back of the class
We are the voices

We are the voices
The voices that never spoke
That never said no
That never said stop
That never said why?
That stayed silent

We are the persons
Who knew it was wrong
Who cared
But who wanted to remain
  unnoticed

Who sat
And did not stand
Stand up

We feel guilt
We feel uncertain
We are cautious
Not safe

We want
We will
And Have
Now
Said something
And stood
Stood straight up
Survival of the Fittest

I went to nursing school
   Excited
   Nervous
   Wanting to learn
   To care
   To nurture

No one said it would be this way
   Jumping hoops
   Facing challenges
   Staying Quiet
   Stressed

Will I survive?
Will I make it to the end?

Is this what awaits me
When I become a nurse?
A Letter to My Nursing Instructor

There have been times
When I can’t hear you
There are too many distractions
I want to learn
That is why I am here
But I can’t hear

There have been times
When some students
Say mean things to others
It’s not right
It doesn’t feel right
It makes me uncomfortable
And sometimes mad
But I am afraid to say anything
To stand up
These are my peers
And I haven’t found my voice yet

But you are a nurse
An experienced nurse
And a teacher with a voice
Please say something
Please do something
I have waited
And waited
I am waiting

Can you see what is happening?
It is not right
Do you think it’s right?
I want to learn
I want to learn to stand up
Can you help me?
Can you show me?

Can you show us all?

Sincerely,
A Nursing Student
I have learned this…

I have learned that the classroom
Can be a very noisy and busy place
  Where some students engage
    And others do not
It is wise to sit in front of the class

I have learned that students
Are not always civil to one another
  There are negative comments
And remarks and sometimes anger
  It is best to work together

I have learned that some students
  Are afraid to speak up
About what they see and hear
  And others feel isolated
But most want to fit in

I have learned that incivility
Has many effects on the students
And on the places where they learn
  There are emotions and fears
It affects their nursing practice too

I have learned that students
  Look to their faculty
To address incivility
  To fairly enforce the rules
And ensure a learning environment
    That is safe
    That is positive
    That is civil
I watched…

I watched while the student left
left my office
after sharing with me
the pain and humiliation
of negative remarks
and comments
from other students
on a social media site
shared by so many other students

I watched
the hurt
the tears flow
the eyes redden
the shoulders deflate
and the stress rise

I watched

I offered silence
and kind words
some advice
not much else

and I watched you leave

I would like you
to know
this is why I
studied what I studied
and wrote what I wrote
so that
I don’t have to watch
you leave again
but can walk out with you
and
help